GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2218
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
OUTBREAK OF DISEASES AFTER FLOOD
Gudhe Shri Anantrao;Kripalani Shri Srichand

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any probability of outbreak of diseases as a result of the recent devastating floods in various parts of the country including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any State-wise assessment in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent any possible spread of diseases?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) Outbreak of diseases especially water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases may occur after floods.Health is a State subject and the State Governments are responsible for the management of natural disasters.The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union territories by providing technical support and material supplies to the State Governments and undertakes surveillance, early detection and prevention and control of outbreaks of communicable diseases including water borne diseases. As of now, there is no outbreak of diseases in the flood affected States.

(c) The Government of India has instituted various public health measures to prevent the outbreak of diseases including disease surveillance activities, constant monitoring of public health situation, community programmes etc.The training activities on mass casualty management have been undertaken.The preventive measures taken by the local health authorities include provision of safe drinking water, improvement of personal and community hygiene, safe disposal of human excreta, undertaking appropriate health education, surveillance and monitoring, distribution of chlorine tablets and ORS packets etc.